

AGENDA



Thursday, December 18, 2008

**Fire
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 18**

Subject: Approve a resolution pertaining to a second extension of line of duty injury leave at full pay for Austin Fire Department Battalion Chief John Butz.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of the Austin Fire Department.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Jim Evans, Acting Fire Chief 974-0132

Prior Council Action: December 7, 2000 – Approval of first extension of line of duty injury leave at full pay

Local Government Code, Sec. 143.073, allows a municipality to provide a leave of absence, with full pay, for an injury related to the person's line of duty for up to one year. At the end of the one-year period, the City Council may extend the injury leave at full or reduced pay.

At a fire in January 2000, then-Captain John Butz was critically injured while battling an apartment fire. He suffered second- and third-degree burns over 40 percent of his body. Butz spent all of 2000 recovering from his injuries. In December 2000, Council approved an extension of his leave for up to one year to cover additional periods of leave necessary.

Butz returned to full-duty in March 2001. Since then, he has promoted to Battalion Chief and has been in relatively good health. Recently he has experienced medical issues related to the 2000 fire. The one year extension (equivalent to a "bucket" of 2756 hours) authorized by Council in 2000 has now been exhausted.

Chief Butz has requested a 12-month extension of his line of duty leave. The City Manager and Fire Department management support Chief Butz's request and his request are also supported by both the general membership and the Firefighters Association.